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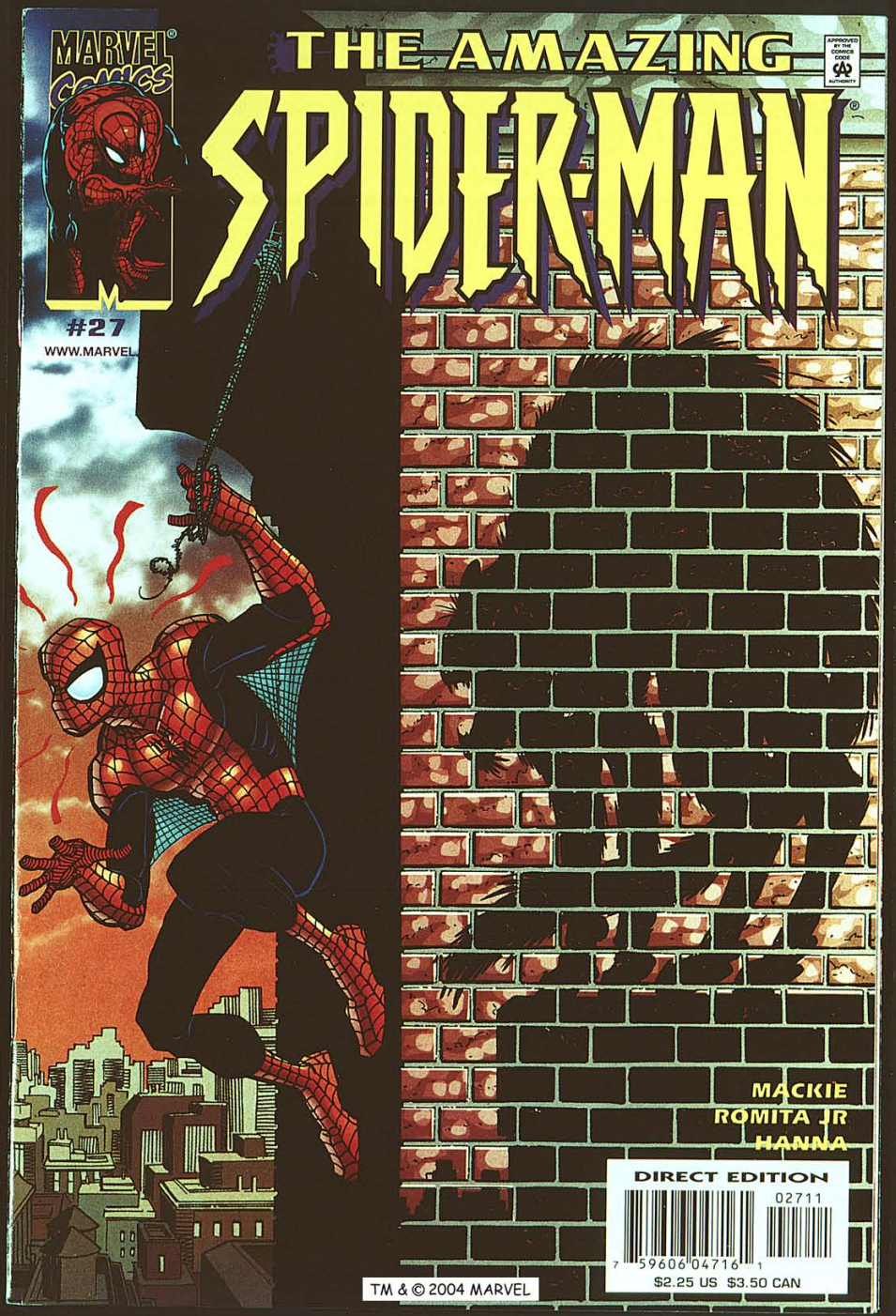


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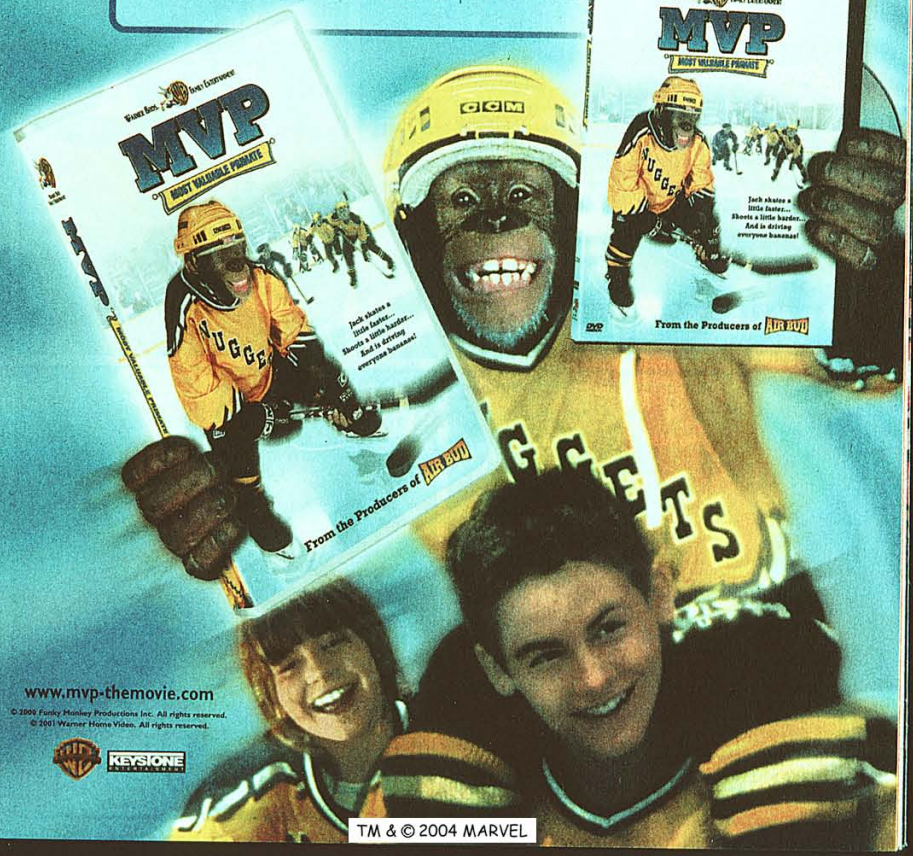


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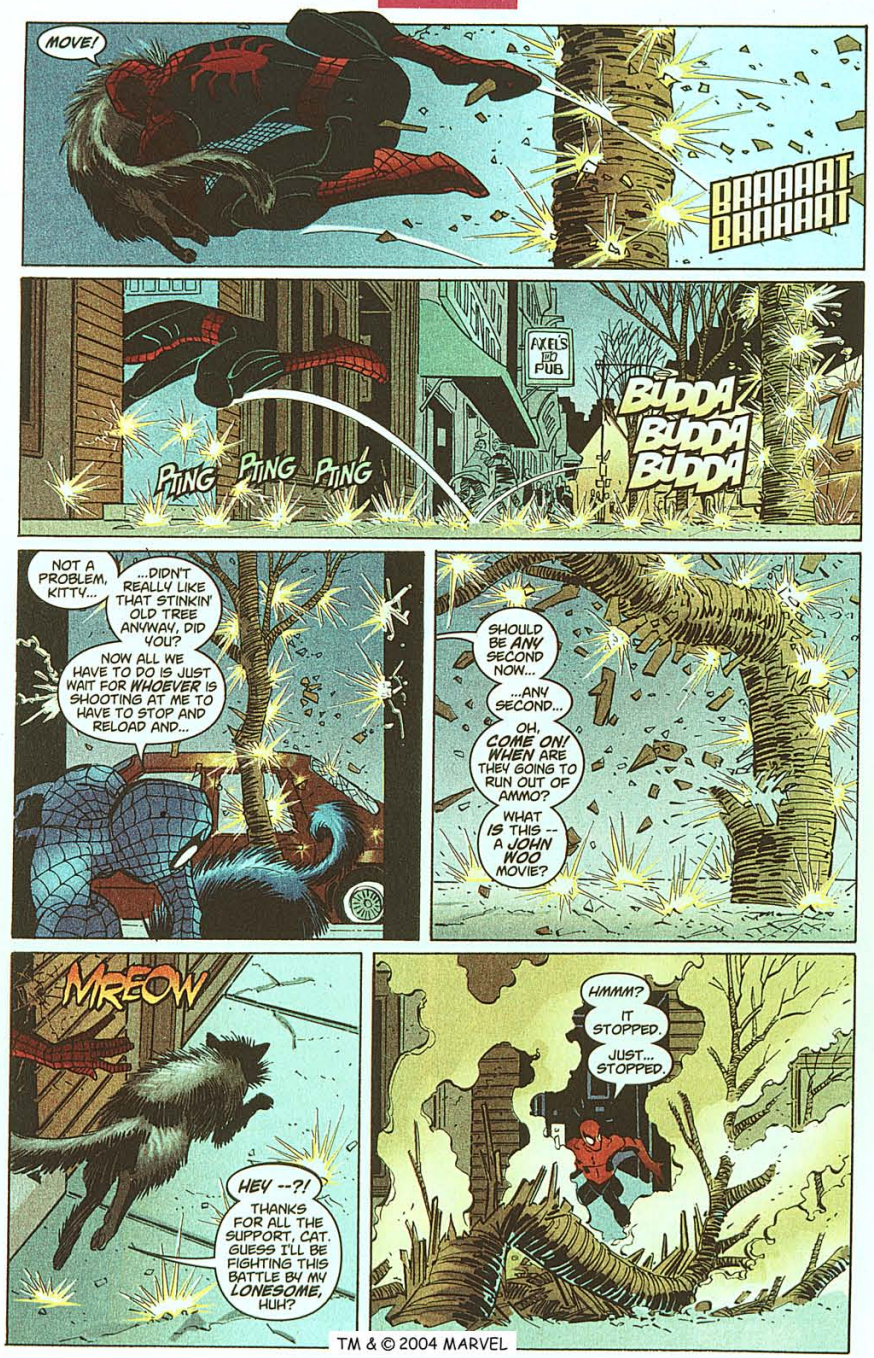


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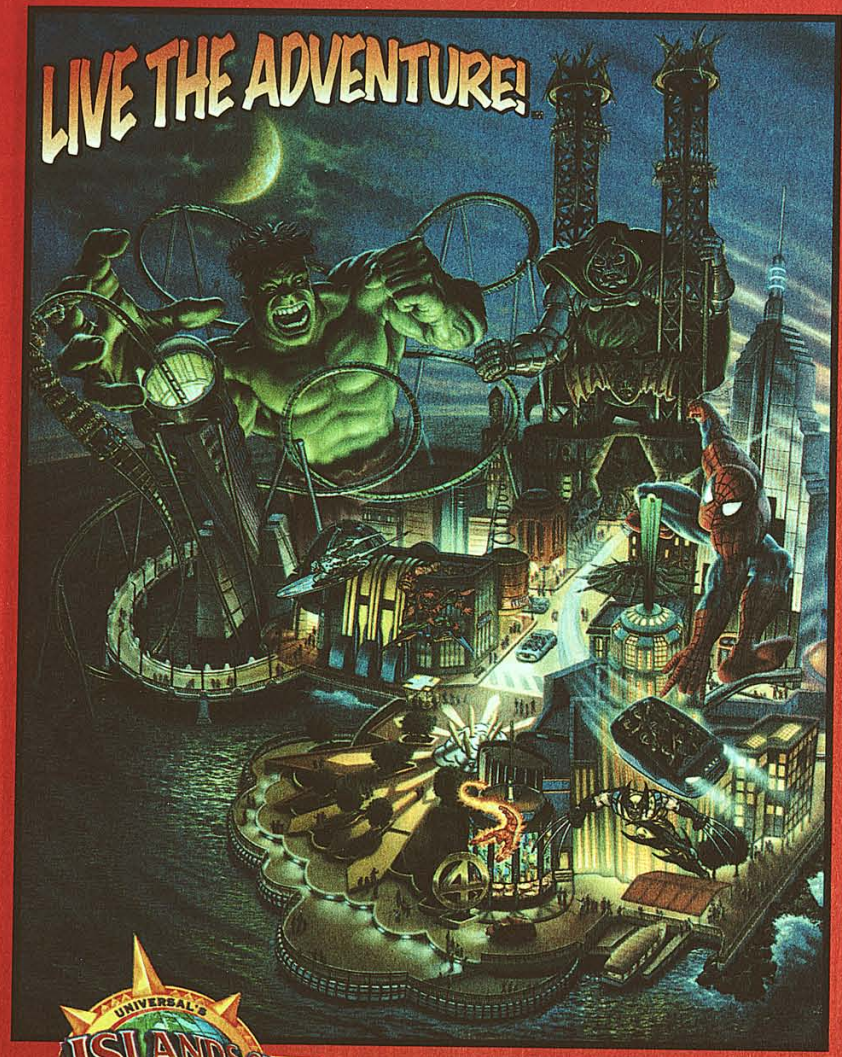

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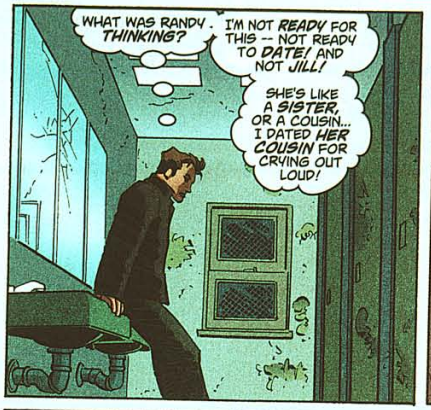

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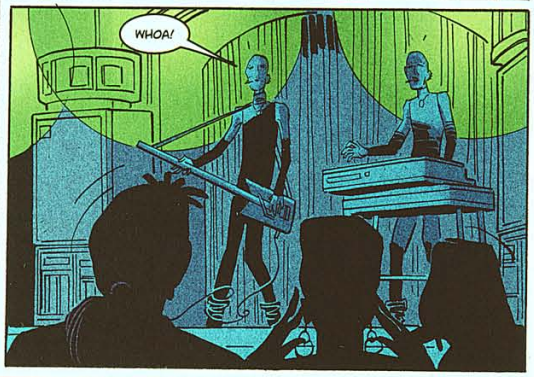

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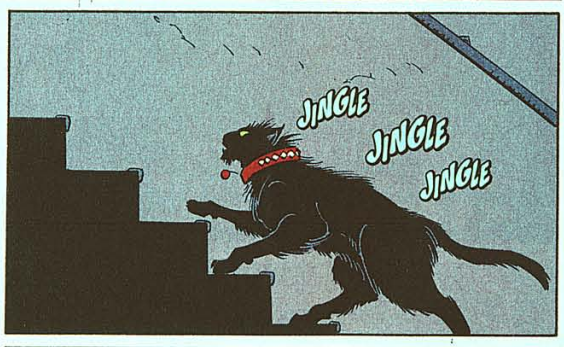


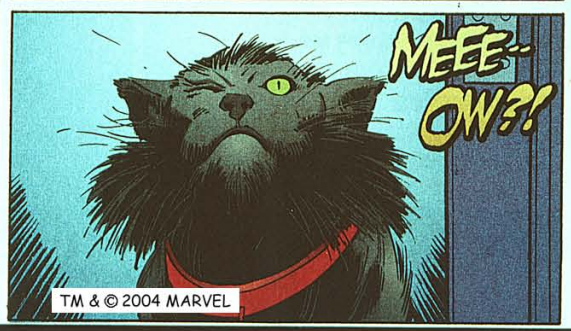


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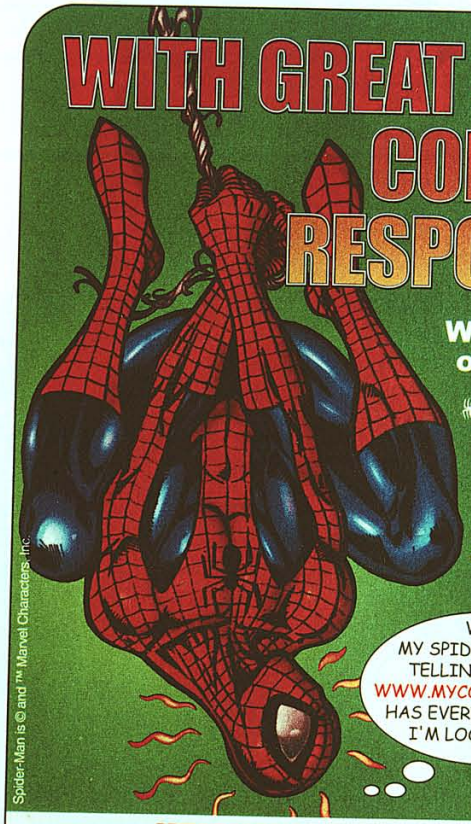


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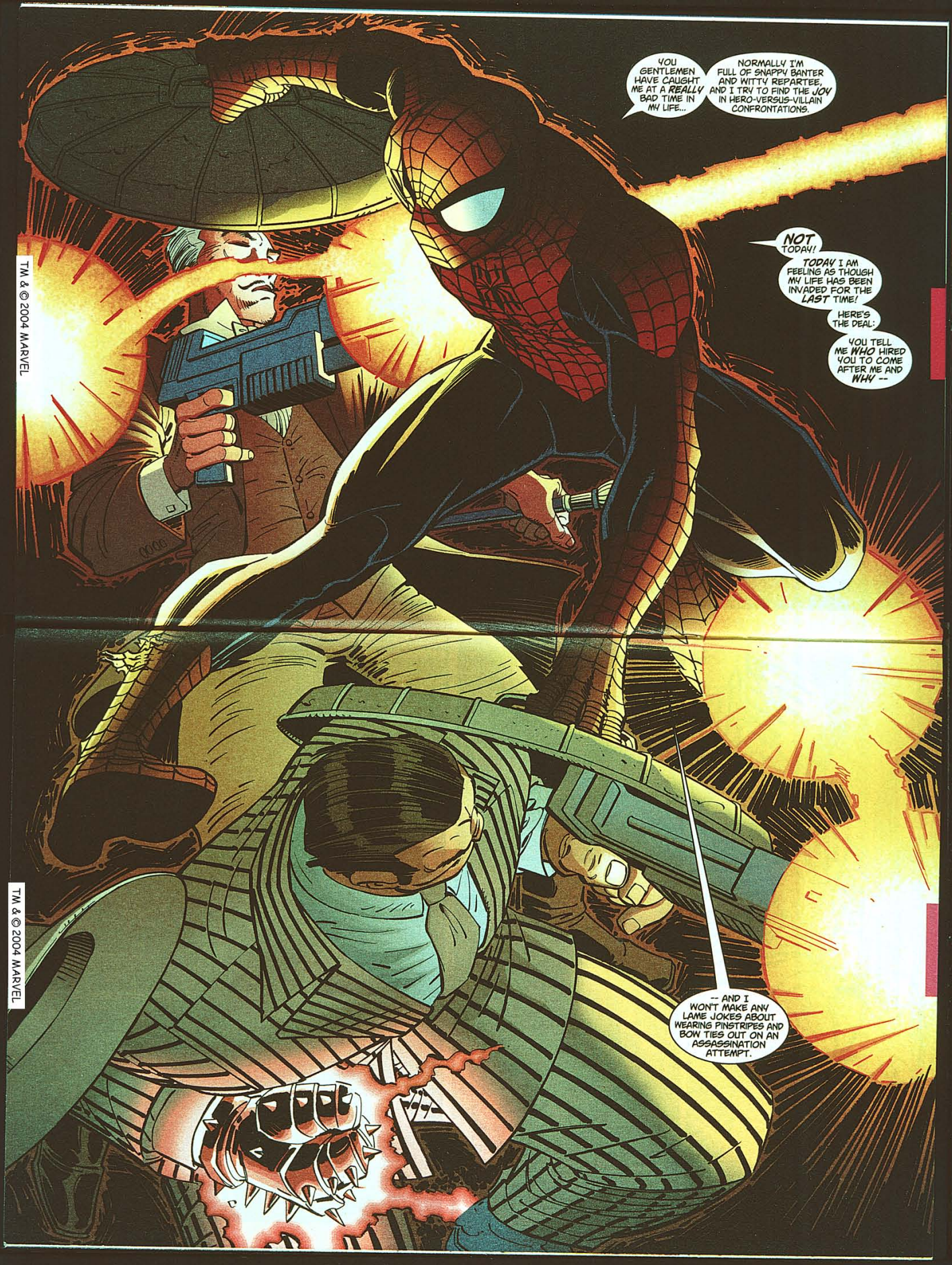
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NOT TODAY!
TODAY I AM FEELING AS THOUGH MY LIFE HAS BEEN INVADED FOR THE LAST TIME!
HERE'S THE DEAL:
YOU TELL ME WHO HIRED YOU TO COME AFTER ME AND WHY --
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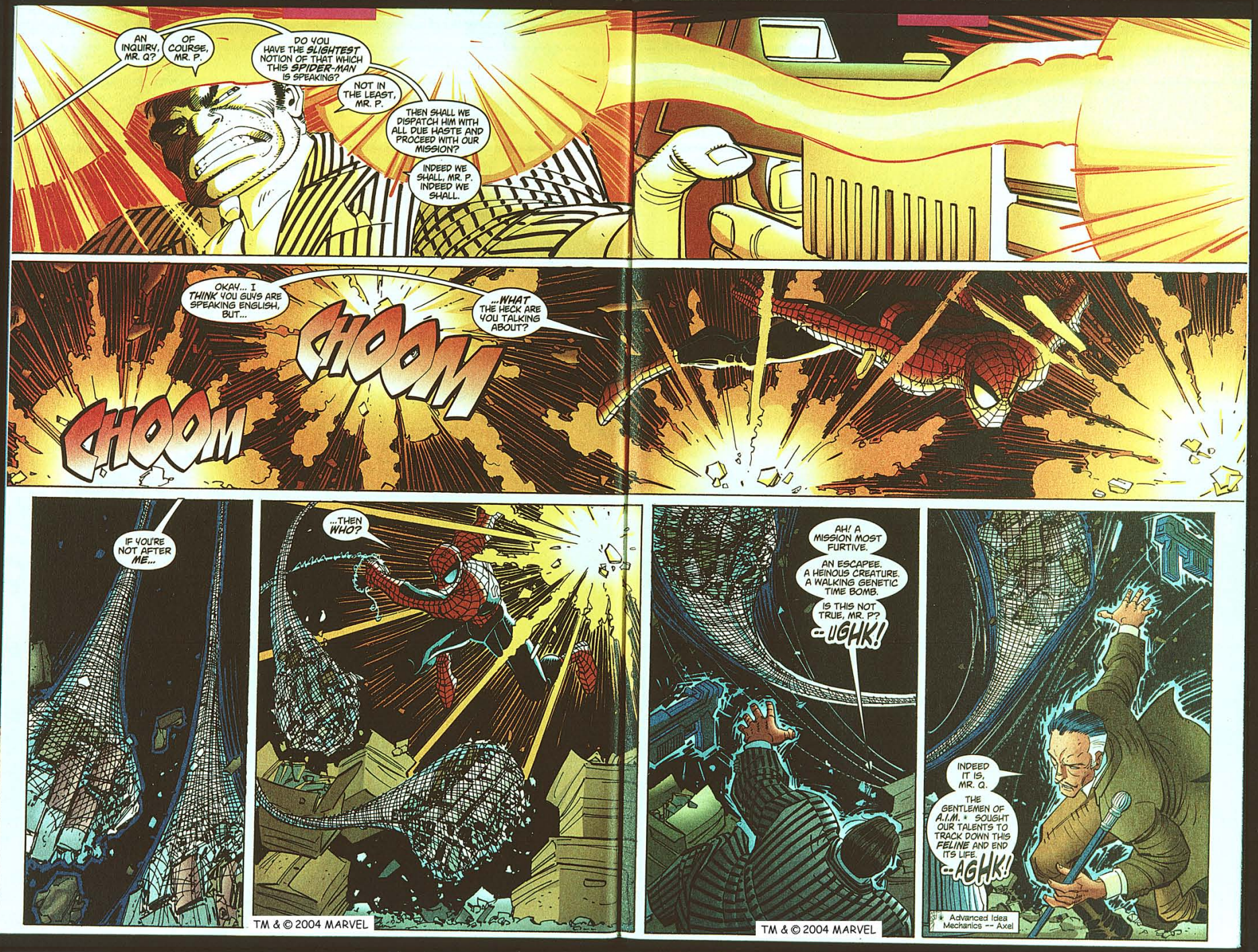

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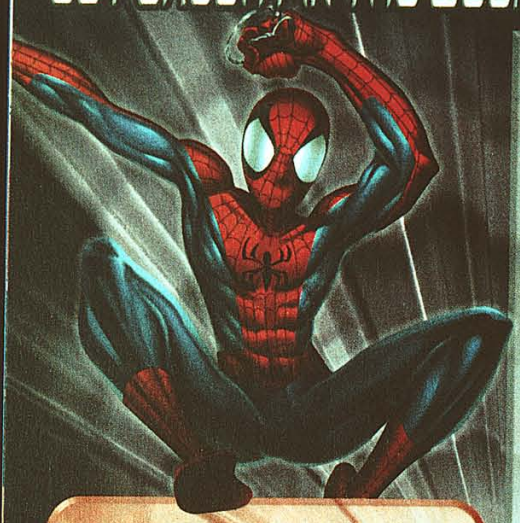

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# THE SPIDER'S WEB

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF

Hey, Spider's Web:

I just finished reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #25 and I am floored. I have been reading the adventures of everyone's favorite wall-crawler for over twenty years, and I have one simple piece of advice: keep John Romita, Jr. and Scott Hanna right here on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! I can't stress this enough. I have always been a big fan of J.R. Jr. (and a gigantic fan of his dad), but I think he is doing some of his best work ever. Combine that with Hanna's superb inks, and ... well, what can I say ... you've got one very happy Spidey fan here. Please keep these two together and working on Spidey. There just is no alternative.

Jim Holtz
Yarmouth, ME
Via Internet

**Couldn't agree more, Jim. And no worries – John Romita Jr. and Scott will be *staying put* on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN for the near future. After a brief hiatus on our monthly, they'll be returning – triumphantly — with issue #30, the first issue of J. Michael Straczynski's run. Everyone's excited. You should be, too.**

Dear Marvel,

I want to start off saying that I appreciate the change the Spider-Man magazines have been taking lately. After reading and collecting comics for twenty-five years, I thought I'd seen it all. But the death of someone very close to a super-hero shakes the foundations of the super-hero's supporting cast. When you take away a key element of that cast, you take away the pleasure that the readers find in that character. And when you bring that character back, you have to do it in a skillful way such that the original sense of fulfillment of the character's personality remains intact. Because, after all, is that not why the character is being brought back: Because the fans miss him/her? In the case of Mary Jane, I can't believe the rumors I'm hearing over the Internet and through valid inside sources. If the plot to bring Mary Jane back in some way jeopardizes her character bio, then I'm sure the success that Marvel has so recently seen in the Spider-Man books (read: ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN) will fizzle away. In my opinion, this whole tragedy has the same thinking behind it that the clone saga mess did! And it will reap the same disappointment among the readers. Even though all the rumors I've heard are just that: rumors, they come from very reliable sources. So, in an effort to save at least one fan, try not to destroy Spider-Man's greatest supporting character. Who knows? You might save many more from departing the title...again.

Chris Brewer
Via Internet

**Rumors are rumors, Chris, as you say. No more, no less. No doubt, Mary Jane's death casts quite a long shadow over Peter Parker's life, and the rumors of her being alive will need to be addressed at some point – directly. The question is *when*. In fiction, and in particular in comics, there's a basic rule: if you don't see the corpse – and sometime even if you *do* – can you assume they're *really* dead? Then again, sometimes everything *is* as it seems. Find out which is the case some time in the near future.**

Dear Spider's Web,

I should have known better. The last issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN I picked up was the issue that had the return of Aunt May. I wrote you a letter that day telling you that you have reached new depths of cliché comic book writing, and that I would never pick up another comic again. I had read Spidey for 20 years, grown up with him. You brought back two excellent characters (Ben and Norman) and killed off the least plot-usable in an incredible issue (ASM #400). You cheapened an incredible story when you brought her back.

Now I pick up ASM #25 and see that you killed the greatest female character created for a hero since Lois Lane! You people ought to be ashamed of yourselves. No wonder you are losing fans left and right. You kill any good character for "the good of readership" and then bring them back when sales slip again. People read comics like Spidey for entertainment, not to feel like they have lost someone. This whole mess is just disgusting. And I didn't even finish the story line in the issues. Do us old time fans a favor and quit while you are this far behind!

Larry Conn
Chelsea MI
Via Internet

**Sorry you feel that way, Larry. Yes, people read Spidey for entertainment, as you say, but they also come for something more – the *characters*. Your strong reaction proves this. All we can say is keep your ears to the ground. There are plenty more developments to come.**

Dear Spider's Web,

I'll keep this short, since my last letters were pretty lengthy. I'm no fortune-teller, but I saw this story line coming a mile away. I should have told my buddies to just tell me if I was wrong, and saved the four bucks this issue cost me. I'm really glad J. Michael Straczynski will be coming soon, because right now, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is not doing so well. I'm sorry to say this, but I believe it's true.

Tell me I'm the only one that thinks this. I know I'm not, heck I read *Wizard* and go to comic book shops. But you could never tell it by the letters page. You'd think everything was going hunky-dory. Things will get better, and I stick by what I've said in my last few letters: "I love Spider-Man. If I stop collecting the title, I'll stop collecting comics."

I know this won't see print. Sorry if I don't have sunshine to spread every single time I write a letter, but if you guys don't want an honest opinion, you should say so. And if you still do want an honest opinion, show it.

Lt. Delvin Williams
2SOPS, Schriever AFB, CO.
Via Internet

**Your opinion is appreciated, Lieutenant. All of our readers' opinions matter to us – even *Rall's*. In your case, you're clearly in the mood for a change, so the good news is that change *is* coming. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN is going to shift a few gears and go into overdrive in coming months. J. Michael Straczynski has big things planned for this title, and the buzz is already strong.**

**Nonetheless, you might want to stay through the 4-part story that begins next issue and concludes in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL 2001. Howard Mackie and Paul Jenkins have something big planned with this story arc, and Spider-fans won't want to miss it. It's going to get a lot of folks talking.**

Dear Spider's Web,

I just had to write in after reading the "Revenge of the Green Goblin" series and the number 25 editions of both Spider-Man titles. Wow! Howard Mackie and Paul Jenkins outdid themselves. Many have complained about the state of the titles as of late (myself included), but the story was brilliant and the way I see it, if Howard is leaving Amazing, there's no reason why he shouldn't do it with a bang. Excellent story telling will simply set the stage for J. Michael Straczynski. I just couldn't believe the dark storyline. It had been such a long time since a story line that intense was seen in the titles and I think it was a great way to shake things up a bit. Just when you didn't think the dynamic between Peter and Norman could be explored any further ...Is it any wonder that *Wizard* magazine rated Spider-Man and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN as both the character and title to watch in 2001? I like the direction things seem to be headed in.

This is nothing new. I've said that before and then just as quickly complained when I saw the next issue, but the one telltale sign is that I have to be around and sticking things out if I want to complain, right? So it's not all bad. This isn't the first letter you guys have received from me, so none of us are rookies in this department. This "month of Spider-Man" hasn't been too bad either, especially for a Spider-Man addict like myself: "The Mysterio Manifesto,"...SPIDER-MAN/DAREDEVIL...Spider-Man guest appearances in WOLVERINE...the annuals...the regular titles..."Revenge of the Green Goblin" limited series...the excitement over the upcoming movie...the new videogame.... Joe Quesada's devotion to both Spidey and the X-titles...all of it has fed my hungry Spidey appetite very well and the stories have been pretty good. All I can say is let's keep it up.

Until Next Time
Ciao
Tyrone M.
Via Internet

**That's the goal, Tyrone. Of course, we're thrilled that our friends at *Wizard* magazine project such a bright 2001 for the one and only wall-crawler. We think they're right on the money.**

Dear Web-Heads,

You're doing a great job with AMAZING SPIDER-MAN so keep on doing it. Keep Randy as Peter's roommate. I love it when Peter tries to keep his secret from Randy. I'm glad Peter is finally getting over M.J.'s death. Is Mary Jane captured by one of his enemies, or did it have nothing to do with him being Spider-Man? I'm sure it hurt Peter when Jill wouldn't let him protect her as Spider-Man. It's just another woman he likes who doesn't like Spider-Man. Why doesn't Peter find a way to increase his powers? I'm sure he will need it with his enemies becoming more powerful. Maybe Mr. Fantastic of the Fantastic Four could help him become more powerful. Stronger webbing, extra four arms and become a giant spider thing. Peter would of course be able to turn human since Reed would make that possible. I can't wait for PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN #24 to come in the mail. If he does start dating or gets married again make it with someone who could protect herself from his enemies. Are you going to do any more WHAT IF stories?

Brett Foerster
Via Intenet

**No WHAT IF-type stories planned, Brett, but in coming months look forward to a comprehensive look at our favorite wall-crawler. In April, there will be *three* Spider-titles on the stands, each offering a different glimpse of the character we all know and love. More on that next issue.**

Dear Marvel,

Although I know that ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN is popular, I must urge you not to ever consider replacing the current continuity with its Ultimate counterpart. There are rumors abounding that this may eventually happen. This would be disastrous to your fan base. Spider-Man is just now returning to its status as Marvel's greatest super-hero. You cannot increase the number of your fans by alienating the ones that you already have. To say that only a fledgling book is "accessible" to "new readers" insults the intelligence of your fans. Anyone who picks up a Spider-Man book can understand it. What happens in twenty years when Ultimate is no longer accessible — kill it and start 'Extreme Spider-Man'? Sounds silly, doesn't it?

Don't get me wrong, I think that the ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN is a good book, but I believe the best way to keep all of the fans happy is to keep *both* universes going simultaneously. I am a loyal Spider-Man fan with almost one thousand Spidey comics in my collection. I think that you would seriously damage the loyalty of fans like me if you replaced the current continuity. What happens if the new fans you have attracted with all of this hype move on to the next flavor-of-the-month?

Stick with solid stories and you will not only attract the new fans, but please the ones that you already have.

Thank you,
D. McCall
Via Internet

**Sleep easy. There are *absolutely no plans* for the Ultimate Universe to supplant the Marvel Universe as core continuity. The coming months should prove it.**

**Editor's note: Special thanks to super-intern John Miesegaes for his invaluable assistance on this issue.**

## NEXT ISSUE:

BEGINNING A 4-PART STORY ARC THAT CONCLUDES IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL 2001. GUEST PENCILER JOE BENNETT AND INKER SANDU FLOREA JOIN HOWARD MACKIE WITH "DISTRACTIONS!"

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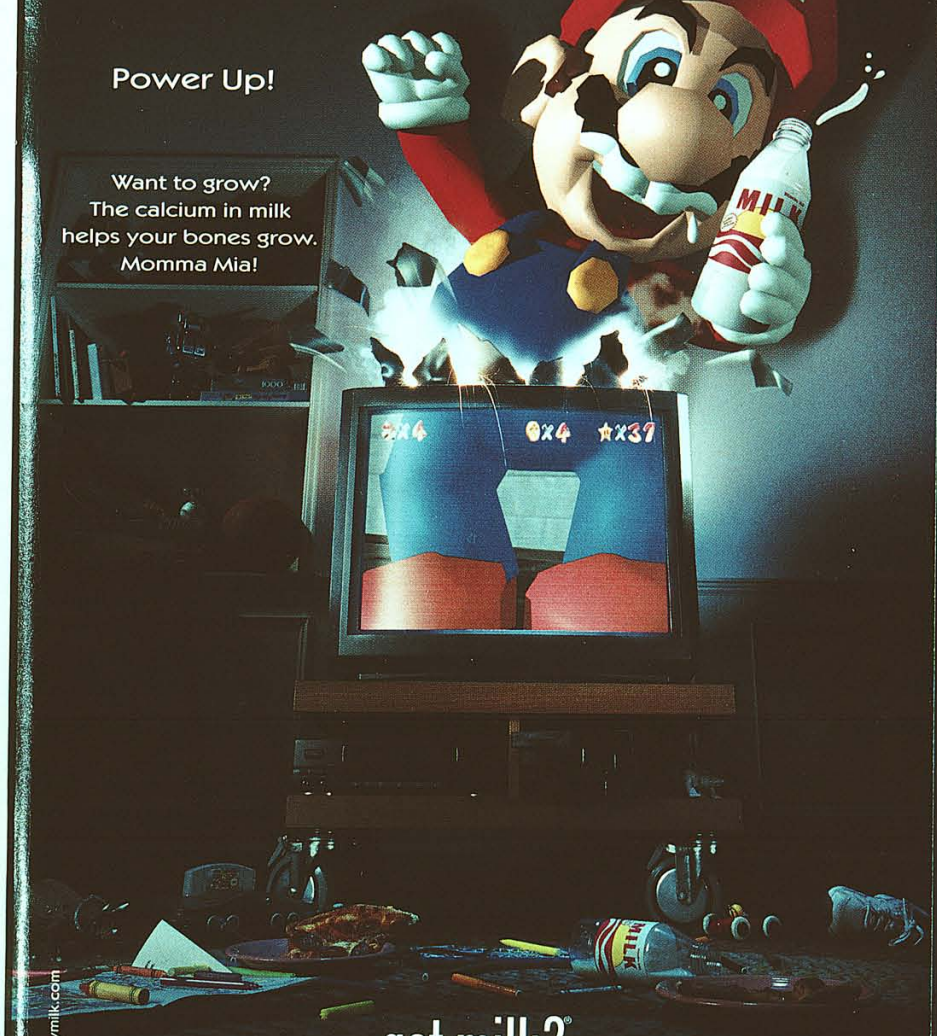

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